

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraph [0020] as follows:

[0020] Cpk values can be calculated in any manner so long as they are based on the identified subgroup of data (i.e., the selected rule or processing conditions). Formulas for calculating Cpk are well known in the art, and are therefore not described here in detail. Cpk values can be predetermined and stored in a look-up table, or calculated dynamically. Based on the determined Cpk value, a sampling rate for the processed lot 22 is determined by sample selector 28. For instance, as shown, if rule 1 was used to determine set points 16 for process 14, a rule 1 Cpk value would be used, which would dictate a sampling rate of  $1/\bar{p}_n$ ; if rule 2 was used, a rule 2 Cpk value would be used, which would dictate a sampling rate of  $1/\bar{q}_m$ , etc. Thus, in the case where multiple lots of similar products are processed at different times, each processed lot 22 can be sampled at a rate commensurate with the rule used for processing. Therefore, in accordance with this invention, multiple lots may have different sample rates based upon the APC rule.